

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 01390 231154Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
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O P 221400Z FEB 77 CORRECTED COPY MRN
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9209
INFO ERDA HQ WASHDC
ERDA HQ GERMANTOWN
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONCSUL SAO PAULO
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C O R R E C T E C O P Y MRN (1390 VICE 1350)

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TAGS: TECH, PARM, BR, GW, AR, CA

SUBJECT: LA OPINION SPECULATES ON BRAZILIAN & ARGENTINE ACTION
AS RESULT OF NUCLEAR SUPPLIER CLUB PRESSURE

REF: BUENOS AIRES 1037

1. IN TWO ARTICLES PUBLISHED 1ST WEEK IN FEB., GENERALLY WELL
INFORMED LA OPINION SCIENCE WRITER MARTIN F. YRIART, CONCEIVABLY
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PAGE 02 BUENOS 01390 231154Z

WITH SOME BASES, SPECULATED ON POSSIBLE COURSES OF ACTION FOR
ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL GIVEN THE INCREASING DIFFICULTY FOR BOTH
IN ACQUISITION OF FOREIGN NUCLEAR KNOW-HOW.

2. YRIART SAW THE RETURN OF ARGENTINE AMBASSADORS FROM BOTH BONN
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1. IN TWO ARTICLES PUBLISHED 1ST WEEK IN FEB., GENERALLY WELL INFORMED LA OPINION SCIENCE WRITER MARTIN F. YRIART, CONCEIVABLY WITH SOME BASIS, SPECULATED ON POSSIBLE COURSES OF ACTION FOR ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL GIVEN THE INCREASING DIFFICULTY FOR BOTH IN ACQUISITION OF FOREIGN NUCLEAR KNOW-HOW.

2. YRIART SAW THE RETURN OF ARGENTINE AMBASSADORS FROM BOTH BONN AND BRASILIA FOR CONSULTATIONS AS PRIMARILY RELATED TO THE NUCLEAR PROBLEM, AND INDICATED THAT BOTH HAD BEEN SCHEDULED FOR WORKING LUNCHES WITH CNEA PRESIDENT CASTRO MADERO. RECENT MEETINGS OF CASTRO MADERO WITH PRESIDENT VIDELA AND FONMIN GUZZETTI WERE SEEN IN THE SAME LIGHT, AND AS LEADING TO A RAPID ADOPTION OF AN ARGENTINE DECISION.

3. ACCORDING TO YRIART, CANADA HAS INFORMED ARGENTINA THAT IT WILL COMPLETE THE EMBALSE POWER PLANT, BUT WOULD NOT RPT NOT IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT FOR TRANSFER OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY SIGNED IN 1974, NOR PROVIDE OTHER REACTORS UNLESS ARGENTINA ADHERED TO NPT OR ACCEPTED FULL-SCOPE SAFEGUARDS. YRIART CHARACTERIZED THE CIRCLE AROUND ARGENTINA AS CLOSING AT THE NEXT IAEA BOG MEETING WHICH WOULD DECIDE TO IMPOSE SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENTS ON COUNTRIES WHICH SEND SCIENTISTS TO TRAIN IN "SENSITIVE" SUBJECTS ABROAD. HE NOTES THAT IAEA HAS REFUSED TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO ARGENTINA ON HEAVY WATER AND PLUTONIUM FOR NOT BEING ON NPT PARTY.

4. YRIART SEES BRAZIL AS, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ITS HISTORY, BEING RECEPTIVE TO A PARTNER RELATIONSHIP WITH ARGENTINA IN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BUENOS 01390 231154Z

NUCLEAR FIELD. "IN THIS INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT, ARGENTINA MUST PLAY ITS CARDS. SIGNATURE OF NPT APPEARS AN INEVITABLE ACT THAT ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL FACE EQUALLY."

5. THE BRAZILIAN NUCLEAR PLAN DOES NOT RPT NOT ALARM ARGENTINA, ACCORDING TO LA OPINION, BECAUSE THE ENRICHMENT PLANT PLANNED WILL NOT BE CAPABLE OF PRODUCING HIGHLY ENRICHED URANIUM.

6. FINALLY, YRIART ENVISAGED THIS SCENARIO: ARGENTINA WILL STRONGLY SUPPORT BRAZIL AGAINST THE U.S., STATING IN INTERNATIONAL FORA THAT NOT RPT NOT ONLY DOES IT NOT RPT NOT OPPOSE THE BRAZILIAN NUCLEAR PLAN, BUT THAT IT HAS NOTHING TO FEAR FROM IT AS WELL. THEN, IN A JOINT ACTION OF ITS DIPLOMATS AND ITS REPRESENTATIVES AT IAEA, ARGENTINA WILL TRY TO FORMULATE A POLICY OF AGREEMENTS WITH BRAZIL AND CHILE WHICH WILL ESTABLISH A NUCLEAR SECURITY ZONE IN THE SOUTHERN CONE, WITH A SYSTEM OF RECIPROCAL SAFEGUARDS SUFFICIENTLY SOLID SO AS TO INSPIRE INTERNATIONAL CONFIDENCE, FOLLOWING THE MODEL OF EURATOM. BY THIS MEANS, ARGENTINA WILL PROPOSE TO BRAZIL AN AGREEMENT

PRIOR TO SIGNING NPT THAT THIS ACT BE COORDINATED AND NEITHER COUNTRY BE PREJUDICED INTERNATIONALLY BY IT. AT THE SAME TIME, IT WILL BE CLEARLY FELT THAT NPT ADHESION IS UNDER PRESSURE. THE NEGOTIATION WITH BRAZIL, YRIART SPECULATES, WILL INVOLVE WITH ALL PROBABILITY OTHER COMMON PROBLEMS SUCH AS ITAIPU, BOLIVIAN IRON ORE, AND TRADE.

7. COMMENT: NO DOUBT YRIART HAS MIXED CONSIDERABLE OF THIS OWN SPECULATIONS WITH WHAT HE HAS PICKED UP FROM HIS GOA CONTACTS. NONETHELESS, THERE IS ENOUGH PLAUSABILITY IN HIS SCENARIO THAT IT MAY WELL REPRESENT AT THE VERY LEAST AN UNOFFICIAL TRIAL BALLOON, AND PERHAPS COULD PROVE ACCURATE IN MANY RESPECTS. WE HAVE NO RPT NO CONFIRMATION OF HIS STATEMENT CONCERNING THE CANADIAN DECISION TO HALT TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER. IF TRUE, IT COULD HAVE CONSIDERABLE SIGNIFICANCE WITH RESPECT TO CNEA PLANS TO ACHIEVE A HEAVY WATER PRODUCTION CAPABILITY. ON THE CONTRARY, HOWEVER, AEC BOARD CHAIRMAN, ROSS CAMPBELL DURING VISIT HERE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 BUENOS 01390 231154Z

FEB. 20 TOLD S&T COUNSELOR THAT AS TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AGREEMENT PREDATED NEW CANADIAN POLICY, IT WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE AFFECTED BY IT.
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